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British schooner *Montpelier*. All of these vessels were in ballast and were given clean bills of health.

During the week a rumor was circulated to the effect that there was a case of plague at the municipal hospital here. I immediately visited the hospital and asked to see the case, but found that the report was without foundation. I was well treated by the French authorities, and especially so by the army medical officers who have shown me every courtesy since I have been here. * * *

Respectfully,

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

G. M. CORPUT,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

GERMANY.

Report from Hamburg—Action against rats.

HAMBURG, January 24, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to report for the week ended January 20: The steamship *Palatia*, of the Hamburg-American Line, sailed for New York on the 14th instant, carrying 683 passengers. For these passengers 301 pieces of baggage were inspected and 240 were disinfected.

The steamship *Albano*, of the Union Line, sailed for New York and Newport News on the 18th instant, carrying 298 steerage passengers booked by the Hamburg-American Line. For these passengers 160 pieces of baggage were inspected and 74 were disinfected.

On Saturday, the 20th instant, the steerage compartments of the steamship *Patricia*, which was to sail the next day, were inspected.

The authorities of Hamburg are wide awake to the danger of the admission of plague, and among other things are devoting a great deal of attention to the destruction of rats in the city. On the 17th instant the police department published a notice offering a premium of 5 pfennigs (a little more than a cent) for each dead rat delivered until February 10 of this year. I am informed that experiments are in progress for the killing of rats in ships and warehouses by chemical means, but I have not yet inquired into these experiments.

Within the past three weeks 3 or 4 sporadic cases of smallpox have been reported, as occurs in every large city occasionally, but the health of the port is good.

Respectfully,

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

A. C. SMITH,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox at Königsberg.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 1, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of State, to inform you that a telegram has to-day been received from the consul at Stettin, which reads as follows: "Smallpox Königsberg."

Respectfully,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.